



MEMORANDUM



To: Members of the House Committee on Taxation

From: Michigan Association of School Boards
Michigan Education Association
Middle Cities Education Association
Michigan Association of School Administrators
Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
AFT Michigan
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals



RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 536

Date: April 30, 2014



We write today in opposition to Senate Bill 536 which would allow certain nonprofit economic development groups to be exempt from local property taxes. The legislation would reduce local property tax revenue for our public school districts. The amount of lost revenue could be significant, because there are no limits placed on the value of the exemption or the number of exemptions and because there are few specific requirements for granting an exemption.



Our concerns lie in the bigger picture. While this particular bill may seem to be only a small decrease to our school districts, when added to the many other policies recently passed and being considered, they continue to erode revenues for public education and add up to a significant amount of money over time.

We urge you to look very closely at this bill and similar ones and the collateral damage they have over time. Our schools will continue to see cuts if they and the school aid fund do not receive the revenue necessary to support our students and communities.



We urge you to oppose this bill until local school districts are held harmless by the cuts proposed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us in the education community listed.

